

THE  
*Annual Report*  
FOR THE  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
1920,

BY  
Edgar Vaughan Phillips,  
Medical Officer of Health.

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Market Harborough :  
Wilkinson, Printer, 64, High Street.

KIBWORTH BEAUCHAMP,

LEICESTER,

6TH APRIL, 1921.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Twenty-sixth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health to the Market Harborough Rural District Council.

### BIRTHS.

The total number of Births registered in the year 1920 was 150, of which 81 were males and 69 females; there were 7 illegitimate births. The Registrar General estimates the population of the District at 7,436 for both Birth Rate and Death Rate, and this gives a Birth Rate of 20.17 a great improvement on the last few years, and once more the Birth Rate is considerably more than the Death Rate.

### DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths was ~~99~~<sup>89</sup> 18 Deaths occurred outside the Rural District of residents belonging to the District. The present population for this year for Death Rate purposes as estimated by the Registrar General is 7,436, as against a population of 7,770 at the 1911 Census.

The ~~99~~<sup>89</sup> Deaths comprised 45 males and 44 females; of this number 34 were over 70 years of age. The Death Rate is ~~25.30~~<sup>11.95</sup> a great improvement on the last few years.

The number of Infants under one year who died was 4, giving an Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births of 26.60, the lowest rate I have ever recorded.

### PHYSICAL FEATURES & GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Market Harborough Rural District covers an area of 30,234 acres in South Leicestershire and contains twenty-two villages. The country is undulating and watered only by small brooks. Before the war it was almost entirely grass land; during the war a small proportion of this was broken up but is now again being laid down for pasture. The greater number of villages are entirely agricultural and very stationary as regards population, the two largest villages being Kibworth and Fleckney contain rather more than half the entire population, a small proportion of the inhabitants of these two villages are engaged in agricultural pursuits and the greater number are hosiery workers. Three factories in Fleckney employ about 1,000 hands and two in Kibworth employ about 400 hands; many workers from these two villages go daily to Leicester for their work. There is a good deal of unemployment at the present time.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The District depends entirely upon its water supply (except the village of Lubenham) from public and private wells, the large majority of which are shallow wells; the quality of the water is always open to suspicion, the wells from their shallow nature are easily liable to contamination, and in times of draught give cause of grave anxiety as to quantity, but the cost of providing a public water supply at the present price of material and labour makes this badly wanted public supply prohibitive.

One complaint of pollution of streams or brooks has been noted during the year.

## SEWERAGE DISPOSAL.

The villages of Kibworth have a joint sewerage scheme which comprises 12 acres of grass land for irrigation with Cosham's patent tanks; Fleckney village has also a sewerage scheme where Cosham's patent tanks and Adams' automatic sprinkler are used, the scheme is one of precipitation and infiltration; both these work satisfactorily. In the other villages of the District cess-pools and settling tanks are generally used, these being cleaned out at stated intervals and the excrement being put on the land and gardens. Water-closets and pan-closets are in general use, very few old-fashioned privies are now to be found in the District, and these are gradually being done away with; unfortunately most of the water closets have to be flushed by hand which does not tend to cleanliness; in the new houses put up under the Housing Scheme this plan has unfortunately been adhered to. The approximate number of privy, pan and water-closets will be found under the Sanitary Inspector's Report. Scavenging and Inspection of the District is fully recorded in the same report.

## SCHOOLS.

There are thirteen elementary Schools in the District; the water supply of these as in the rest of the District is from wells, and for washing purposes from water collected from the roofs. The closet accommodation consists of water-closets in four schools, pan-closets in five and privies in three, one school having pan-closets for the girls and privies for the boys; these are all kept in good order. No further work has been yet done on the Fleckney Schools.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Eighteen cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases were notified during the year Scarlet Fever, 9; Diphtheria, 4; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1; Malaria, 1; Enteric, 3 with one death. The Enteric cases were again in the same house at Husbands Bosworth in which the



cases of Typhoid occurred last year, no cause could be found, every test that could be thought of was tried and many consultations with the Medical Officer of the County and the Bacteriologist without any tangible result. Notification of Infectious Diseases is most carefully carried out by the Medical men in the District. Anti-toxin and disinfectants are immediately supplied by your Council and all necessary precautions taken.

There is no Hospital for Infectious Diseases in the District.

### HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The house accommodation of the working classes is on the whole fairly good, particularly so in the larger villages such as Kibworths and Fleckney where many of the houses are owned by the occupiers ; numbers of houses under the Government Housing Scheme have been finished and are in building during the year, but there is still a shortage of houses and a few cases of overcrowding in consequence of this shortage. Unfortunately the rent and rates for the new houses is beyond the means of the poorer of the working classes and it is among this class that overcrowding occurs. I still consider that many of the cottages in the District which have been neglected during the last few years, and consequently condemned, could be made quite fit for human habitation at less expense to your Council than building new ones.

### FACTORIES.

All the Factories in the District have been regularly inspected and are in good sanitary condition.

### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS.

These have been regularly inspected and where infringements of the Dairies Cowsheds Order have been found, notices were served and in all cases the infringements have been remedied.

The milk supply of the District is good and a large amount of milk from this District is sent to Leicester, London, etc.

### RAINFALL.

Jan.	2·66	April	4·99	July	3·73	Oct.	1·51
Feb.	·95	May	2·33	Aug.	1·32	Nov.	1·32
Mar.	1·80	June	1·74	Sept.	1·70	Dec.	1·24
							Total 25·29 inches.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EDGAR VAUGHAN PHILLIPS.

## *Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1920.*



To the Chairman and Members of the Market Harborough Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December 31st, 1920.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

During the year I have made 865 inspections of premises. I have served 223 informal notices for nuisances to be abated, and defects &c. remedied. In 20 instances it was necessary to serve Statutory notices before the work was carried out.

With the exception of a few outstanding at the end of the year, the notices have been complied with.

### SEWERAGE.

During the year the Sprinkler apparatus at Fleckney Sewage Farm, which has been working continuously for 14 years, was thoroughly overhauled by the makers, and is now in very satisfactory condition.

With the exception of new sewers at Kibworth Beauchamp, and Lubenham in connection with Housing Schemes, the only new work carried out during the year was the relaying of 44 yards of sewer at Lubenham, and the continuation of the sewer at Laughton for 90 yards.

In consequence of complaints of the pollution of a water course at Laughton the Council have sanctioned the construction of a septic tank and filter. This work will be put in hand shortly.

### SCAVENGING.

The parishes of Fleckney and Kibworth Beauchamp are scavenged by direct labour, viz. by Councils' men and team labour hired as required. The working of this system has been considerably improved during the year and is now very satisfactory. Sanitary dust bins, and pail closets are emptied weekly, and ashpits at least once every 3 months. The changing of ashpit for sanitary bins is still progressing and I hope in a year or two the whole of the filthy ash holes in these villages will be done away with.

At Fleckney the removal of night soil from pail closets represents a large proportion of the total cost.

The scavenging of Kibworth Harcourt is carried out by contract.

For the remainder of the district there is no scavenging system. The removal of night soil and refuse devolves on the owners and occupiers, and in some of the larger parishes—Lubenham, Bosworth, and Foxton it is increasingly difficult to secure the frequent removal of these refuse heaps, which are generally allowed to accumulate until there is a cart load, sometimes as long as 12 months.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In Kibworth Beauchamp and Kibworth Harcourt the majority of the closets are water closets, flushed by hand, and a very few pail closets.

In Fleckney there now remains only 1 privy within the limits of the sewer. The whole of the conversions, which have been patiently pressed for during the past ten years, have been carried out by the owners without cost to the Council.

There remains in Fleckney 109 pail closets, and I hope a campaign for the removal of these will be instituted as soon as conditions become more normal. This type of closet is only one degree less filthy than the old privy and entails considerable expense in the removal of its contents.

In the remainder of the district the majority of the cottages are provided with privies and earth closets, and a few by water closets.

### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILK SHOPS ORDER.

During the year 2 names have been removed from the Register, having ceased to sell milk, and 10 new names have been added. There are now 53 persons on the Register.

199 inspections of cowsheds, &c. have been made during the year. 88 contraventions were found, viz. failure to limewash 43, dirty floors 33, accumulation of manure 12. Notices for these have been complied with.

### FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS ACTS.

There are 8 Factories, and 23 Workshops and Bakehouses on the Register.

These have been [frequently inspected and generally found satisfactory.

Six lists of Outworkers have been received containing names of 148 outworkers, viz. houses where work for Factories is carried out at home. No case of infectious disease occurred in the home of outworkers.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In connection with infectious diseases 38 inspections have been made. 20 rooms have been disinfected and one lot of bedding destroyed and replaced.

## NEW BUILDINGS.

Plans have been submitted and passed for 2 new houses, 1 bungalow (allowed temporarily for 3 years), and 6 for alterations and additions to premises.

## HOUSING ACTS.

The house to house survey, commenced last year, was completed in January and all the particulars included in last year's report.

Two houses reported unfit for habitation in that report have since been reconstructed and made into very comfortable cottages.

I append Schedule of particulars required by the Ministry of Health :—

### 1. *General Housing conditions in the District. Extent of shortage or excess of houses.*

Based on the information obtained by the house to house survey of 1919, it was estimated that 134 houses were required to supply the need of the population and to allow of unfit houses being closed. Conditions having however somewhat changed, the Housing Committee are at present making exhaustive enquiries with a view to obtaining complete information on the subject.

#### *Measures taken or contemplated to meet the shortage :—*

Under the Housing (Assisted) Scheme 12 houses were completed and occupied at the end of the year, 30 were in course of erection, and details completed for the erection of 14 others, making a total of 56.

No important change in population is anticipated.

### 2. *Overcrowding.*

Extent :—The number of overcrowded houses is 30.

Causes :—In the majority of cases large families occupying houses with only 2 bedrooms. In a few cases 2 families occupying 1 house.

*Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding :—*

It is anticipated that sufficient accommodation will be provided by the Housing Scheme for overcrowded families. The problem will be further complicated however by the fact that the rents charged for the new houses are above those prevailing for similar accommodation in existing property, hence the reluctance of overcrowded families to leave their present quarters for a new house if available for them

*Principal cases of overcrowding during the year and action taken :—*

Two cases have been dealt with and the families accommodated in new houses.

3. *Fitness of Houses.*

*General Standard of Housing :—*The general standard throughout the district is typical of an ordinary rural district. The majority of the houses are brick-built and slated, with a few mud and thatched cottages in the smaller villages. The commonest fault is the absence of a suitable damp course. The proportion of small houses, viz. 1 or 2 bedrooms is rather high.

*General character of defects found in unfit houses :—*Dilapidations, dampness, and insufficiency of light and ventilation.

*How far defects are due to lack of proper management and supervision by owners :—*

There is a tendency to neglect small defects such as broken spouts, and leaky roofs, until they have caused considerable damage to brickwork, woodwork, and plaster and paper, and necessitating the expenditure of several times the amount which would have been necessary to repair the original defect. In many cases it is the fault of the tenants who do not notify the owner or Inspector until the trouble is bad.

*General action taken as regards unfit houses :—*

None possible until accommodation is provided for displaced tenants.

*Conditions as far as they affect housing, as regards water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal, together with measures taken during the year in these matters :—*

The absence of an adequate water supply has a great effect in preventing the conversion of pail and privy closets to water



closets, and where water closets are in use they are generally of the hand flushed type and consequently not kept in a cleanly condition. In this respect it is greatly to be regretted that the Ministry of Health are assisting to perpetuate this evil by refusing to sanction expenditure on adequate water supplies to the new houses being built under the Assisted Scheme.

In regard to refuse disposal, the need for public scavenging in some of the larger villages is great. It is becoming increasingly difficult for tenants to borrow or hire carts to remove their refuse and also to find suitable places whereon to deposit it.

Unhealthy areas :—There are no areas scheduled.

#### *By-Laws.*

Building By-Laws are in force in the parishes of Fleckney, Kibworth Beauchamp, Kibworth Harcourt and Smeeton.

## APPENDIX.

### STATISTICS.

#### *Inspection.*

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	361
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	32
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	none
					in addition to those already recorded.	
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation					67

#### *Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	57
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Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919.

(1)	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	10
(2)	Number of houses which were rendered fit—			
(a)	by Owners	...	...	10
(b)	by Local Authority in default	...	...	0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	0

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served	...	...	10
(2)	Number in which defects were remedied—			
(a)	by owners	...	...	10
(b)	by Local Authority in default	...	...	0

Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919.

(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	3
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the houses having been rendered fit	...	...	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	2
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished	...	...	1

Number of houses not complying with the Building By-Laws erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919	...	...	...	1
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- (5) Staff engaged on Housing work—  
The Sanitary Inspector is designated Officer under the Housing Acts.

I am, Gentlemen,

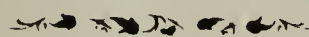
Your obedient servant,

Kibworth,

FRED. C. SALMON.

April 4th, 1921.

# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.



YEAR 1920.

MARKET HARBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT.

Total number of complaints during the year	...	...	17
„ „ inspections made for all purposes	...	...	865
„ „ notices served	243 (Informal 223, Statutory 20)		
Overcrowding : No. of houses inspected	...	...	8
Nuisances abated	...	...	2

*Closet Accommodation.*

Approx. No. in District : (1) Privies	..	...	180
(2) Pail closets	...	...	210
(3) Water closets	...	...	800
Privies (middens) No. of new provided	...	...	Nil
No. repaired	...	...	4
No. converted to (a) pails	Nil	(b) w.c.'s	8
Pails or earth closets—No. of new provided	...	...	Nil
No. converted to w.c.'s	...	...	Nil
Water closets—No. of new provided	...	...	8

*Drainage and Sewerage.*

Drains, drain traps, etc.—No. inspected	...	...	500
Nuisances abated	...	...	41
Cesspools—No. repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	...	Nil
No. abolished and drains connected to sewer	...	...	Nil

*Scavenging.*

How is refuse disposed of ? In Fleckney, Kibworth Beauchamp & Kibworth Harcourt, collected & carted to tips, remainder of district disposed of by occupiers.

Ashpits—No. of new provided	...	...	Nil
No. converted to ashbins	...	...	14
Ashbins—No. of new provided	...	...	26

*Water Supply.*

No. of samples taken for analysis	...	...	9
No. condemned	...	...	1
Wells—No. closed	...	...	Nil
No. cleansed, repaired, etc.	...	...	2
No. of instances where public supply was instituted for the well	...	...	Nil



*Infectious Diseases.*

Houses—No. inspected	...	...	...	11
No. of inspections	..	...	...	38
No. disinfected (a) Houses	...	...	..	11
(b) Schoolrooms	...	...	...	Nil
Is there a steam disinfecter available ?	...	...	...	No

*Food Supply.*

Diseases : No. of seizures	...	...	...	Nil
Slaughter Houses :				
No. in District (Rural)	...	...	...	17
General condition of slaughter houses	...	...	...	Good
No. of inspections of premises	...	...	...	67

*Milk supply (Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order 1885-1889.)*

Have regulations been adopted ?	...	...	...	Yes
Has Vet. Inspector been appointed ?	...	...	...	No
Dairymen—No. of milksellers (registered)	...	...	...	53
No. of inspections made	...	...	...	199
No. of milksellers (cowkeepers)	...	...	...	51
No. of inspections made	...	...	...	191
No. of milksellers (purveyors only)	...	...	...	2
No. of inspections made	...	...	...	8
Premises—No. of inspections made	...	...	...	199
No. of contraventions found	...	...	...	88
No. found to require (a) cleansing	...	...	...	88

*Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.*

Workshops—No. on register (to include bakehouses)	...	...	...	23
No. of nuisances abated	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses—No. on register	..	...	..	9
No. of nuisances abated	...	...	...	1
Homework—No. of outworkers	..	...	..	148

*Adoptive Acts.*

Acts adopted during the year	...	...	...	Nil
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*Bye-laws and Regulations.*

Acts adopted or revised during the year	...	...	...	Nil
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FRED. C. SALMON,

*Sanitary Inspector.*